

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, July 26, 1999

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS).

## DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
July 26, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM GIBBONS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

## MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 2 p.m.

## PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We pray, almighty God, that we will have the maturity and the spiritual insight to realize that Your goodness and Your blessings come to us not because of our righteousness, but because of Your grace to all people. Give us, O God, a greater sense of humility in our minds and a wonderful simplicity of faith so that we see more clearly the wonder and the majesty and the grandeur of Your gifts to us. For Your love to us and Your reconciling spirit, for

Your peace that passes all human understanding, we offer this prayer of thanksgiving and praise. Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. NORWOOD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1480. An act to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the United States Army Corps of Engineers to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 1480) "An Act to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the United States Army Corps of Engineers to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses, thereon, and appoints Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. MOYNIHAN, and Mrs. BOXER, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate disagrees to the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 900) "An Act to enhance competition in the financial services industry by providing a prudential framework for the affiliation of banks, securities firms, insurance companies, and other financial

service providers, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. GRAMM, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. MACK, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BAYH, and Mr. EDWARDS, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

## CONGRESS SHOULD ENCOURAGE MINERAL DEVELOPMENT, NOT TAX IT

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, time and time again we have heard the opponents of the 1872 mining law come down to the well and state that the United States is the only major country which does not charge a Federal royalty for mining on government land. These same anti-mining critics want to add a 5 to 10 percent tax on all U.S. mineral production.

A recent survey was conducted on 17 major mining countries that compete with the United States. These 17 countries account for about 85 percent of all metal and minerals produced by the free world market economy. The average royalty they pay in these 17 countries surveyed was just under 1 percent, that is right, less than 1 percent.

Mr. Speaker, the United States must remain competitive internationally, and these proposed changes to the mining law would not allow us to do so. The United States is already a net importer of most minerals. Why is it that we are so worried about the trade deficit, and here we are talking about potential legislation that would render us completely dependent upon foreign nations for necessary goods and minerals that could be produced right here at home?

Mr. Speaker, Congress would be wise to encourage mineral development to offset the trade deficit and our dependence on foreign countries. In the meantime, this would create jobs, thereby increasing tax revenues and lowering social costs to the government.

## SHOULD A GYMNASIUM FOR THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT COST \$85 MILLION?

(Mr. COBLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1